

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00602 241434Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OC-01 CCO-00 /020 W
-----040085 241457Z /45

P 180840Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6021
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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LIMDIS

STATE ALSO FOR OC/T

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, RW
SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO HABYARIMANA
AND BAGAZA

REF STATE 94665 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS, KIGALI 388 WAS POUCHED
TO NAIROBI MARCH 13 FOR TRANSMISSION. NAIROBI HAS
ADVISED BY HF THAT THIS POUCH WAS RECEIVED MARCH 15.
(EMBASSY HAS BEEN WITHOUT DIRECT TRANSMISSION CAPABILITY
SINCE FEBRUARY 9.) SINCE CONTINUITY NUMBER WAS NOT
SERVICED, WE ASSUMED MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED BY NAIROBI
AND RECEIVED BY ADDRESSEES. KIGALI 388 HEREWITH REPEATED:

QUOTE
R 130821Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5884
RUTAOK/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 1750
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPDC, SHUM, RW, BY

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS/REGIONAL STABILITY :
PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

SUMMARY: PROPOSE IDENTICAL PRIVATE MESSAGES TO PRESIDENTS
BAGAZA AND HABYARIMANA TAKING NOTE OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
IN ETHNIC RECONCILIATION AND IN CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. AS I HOPE HAS BEEN EVIDENT FROM REPORTING OUT OF BOTH
KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA, PAST YEAR HAS WITNESSED EXTRA-
ORDINARY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN HUTU-RULED
RWANDA AND TUTSI-RULED BURUNDI. GIVEN ANCIENT HISTORY OF
ETHNIC VIOLENCE, REACHING GENOCIDE PROPORTIONS AT MORE
THAN ONE STAGE, IT IS REMARKABLE THEY ARE ABLE
TO LIVE IN PEACE AT ALL. BUT SINCE NOVEMBER 1976, WHEN
BAGAZA TOOK POWER FROM HIS DRUNKEN PREDECESSOR MICHOMBERO
AND BEGAN SERIOUSLY TO ADDRESS BURUNDI'S PROFOUND ETHNIC
PROBLEMS, RWANDANS -- MOST OF ALL PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA --
HAVE TAKEN ENTHUSIASTIC INTEREST IN THEIR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR
AND HAVE FOUND IDENTITY OF PURPOSE IN ENDING HISTORIC
ETHNIC STRIFE.

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2. RESULT HAS BEEN A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT HERE, FOLLOWED
BY A SUCCESSION OF MINISTERIAL AND WORKING LEVEL EXCHANGES
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, AIMED AT HARMONIZING APPROACHES TO
COMMON ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. RESULT HAS ALSO
BEEN TO BREATHE UNEXPECTED VIGOR INTO TRIPARTITE POLITICAL/
DEVELOPMENT GROUPING WITH ZAIRE (CEPGL), WHERE TINY RWANDA
AND BURUNDI NOW EXERCISE LEADERSHIP AHEAD OF THEIR GIANT
BUT SLOTHFUL NEIGHBOR (WE RECOGNIZE THAT CEPGL IS STILL
NO MORE THAN EMBRYONIC, BUT ITS SIGNIFICANCE LIES PRECISELY
IN ELEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN RWANDA AND
BURUNDI). AND TO EXTENT SECURITY WORRIES RECEDE, LONGER-
TERM RESULT SHOULD BE TO DEFUSE ARGUMENTS FOR ARMS
ACQUISITIONS NOW ADVANCED BY SOME MILITARY HARD-LINERS.

3. IN REMOTE CENTRAL AFRICAN CONTEXT, IMPROVED TIES
BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES REPRESENT REMARKABLE ACHIEVE-
MENT IN STATESMANSHIP ON PART OF TWO FORWARD-LOOKING
PRESIDENTS, AND IN MY OPINION IT MERITS CLEAR RECOGNITION
BY US. OCCURS TO ME THAT, AS AMBASSADOR CORCORAN
ARRIVES TO ASSUME HIS NEW POST IN BUJUMBURA
AND I DEPART ON CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON, NOW MIGHT BE
JUST THE TIME FOR GESTURE OF THIS SORT TOWARD BOTH

PRESIDENTS. I THEREFORE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ADDRESSING IDENTICAL PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO BAGAZA AND HABYARIMANA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

4. BEGIN QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: DURING THE PAST YEAR, AFRICAN CONTINENT HAS EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT WHICH HAS UNSETTLED THOSE WHO HOPE INSTEAD FOR ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. IT IS THEREFOR SATISFYING TO ME TO REMARK UPON THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH HAVE FOURISHED DURING THE SAME PERIOD BETWEEN RWANDA AND BURUNDI, TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCED SO MUCH VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT IN THE PAST.

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THOSE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM YEARS OF ETHNIC STRIFE IN BOTH COUNTRIES CANNOT HELP BUT BE GRATIFIED AT THE PROGRESS TOWARD RECONCILIATION WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE WITHIN EACH COUNTRY. THEY MUST SIMILARLY BE GRATIFIED BY THE DEGREE OF CONSTRUCTIVE COLLABORATION LATELY ACHIEVED BETWEEN LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF GREAT LAKES STATES. TO TURN AWAY FROM ANCIENT HOSTILITIES AND JOIN FORCES INSTEAD IN THE SEARCH FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE REQUIRES EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND FORESIGHT ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, THEREFORE, TO EXPRESS TO YOU AND TO PRESIDENT (BAGAZA/HABYARIMANA) AMERICA'S ADMIRATION FOR THE PROGRESS YOU HAVE MADE IN FORGING PEACEFUL TIES TO TAKE THE PLACE OF OLD ANTAGONISMS. I KNOW YOU WILL PERSEVERE IN YOUR EFFORTS TO INSURE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG ALL CITIZENS, TO FOSTER HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG STATES, AND TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

SINCERELY YOURS. JIMMY CARTER. END QUOTE.

5. WOULD WELCOME BUJUMBURA COMMENT.
CRIGLER UNQUOTE LESSER

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